



Saguaro National Park News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Saguaro National Park October Program Schedule

Saguaro National Park is offering a variety of hikes and talks this fall that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. This listing is also available on the park's website, www.nps.gov/sagu, or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

Special Programs at Tucson Mountain District (West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

Oct. 5, 11, 18, 19, 25, 26 10:45 a.m. Living With Giants Talk: 30 minutes

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 7, 21, 28 1:15 p.m. Puma: Predator, Prey, and Peril Talk: 45 minutes

Often called puma, cougar, or mountain lion, discover the true nature of this secretive, nocturnal and elusive predator. Explore the threats that this creature faces as it struggles to survive within an ever shrinking habitat. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 2, 5, 7, 12, 14, 21, 26, 28 2:15 p.m. The CCC in Saguaro NP Talk: 45 minutes

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Great Depression-era work program that greatly influenced national, state, and county parks. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. Old photos and movie clips illustrate a brief history of the CCC in this area. *Call to confirm. Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 6, 8, 9, 13 2:15 p.m. Homesteading Adventures in the Desert Talk: 30 min.

Enjoy the fascinating oral history surrounding Mexican American Homesteaders' adventures around Saguaro National Park communities. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10:45 a.m. Petroglyphs: Communications Etched In Stone Talk: 30 minutes

The Hohokam people carved and pecked symbols into stone, leaving meanings still subject to speculation centuries later. What is the current thinking about the meanings of petroglyphs, and what might have indigenous people been communicating? *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 1:15 p.m. Against All Odds Talk: 30 minutes

A saguaro might produce 40 million seeds in its lifetime, but only one or two seedlings will survive into maturity. Discover how the "deck is stacked" against their survival and what conditions are needed for growth into the majestic icon of the desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 1:45 p.m. Lizards: Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool Talk: 30 minutes

Frequently overlooked, discover how these small denizens of the desert become a critical component of our desert community. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Oct. 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 15, 20, 27 10:45 a.m. Neighborhood Characters Walk: 40 minutes, 100 yards

An easy morning walk in the Cactus Garden will bring visitors face to thorns with plants that remind them of people they know, including "Bill Gates". *Wheelchair accessible.*

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Special Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (East, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail):

October 4, 11, 18, 25 3:00 p.m. History is a Work in Progress Presentation

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to explore the almost forgotten names of people and places from the late 1800's in the area of the Rincon Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible*

October 5, 19, 26 11:00 a.m. The Changing Cactus Forest Presentation
6, 20, 27 3:00 p.m.

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to see the changes that have come to the Cactus Forest in the 80 years of Saguaro National Park and to think about what the next 80 years will look like. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 5, 12, 26 3:00 p.m. Meet the Hohokam Presentation
13, 20, 27 11:00 a.m.

Come meet the early inhabitants of Saguaro National Park in this auditorium presentation. Discover what their life was like here. What did these people use for food, shelter, and clothing? *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 1, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 10:00 a.m. All About Saguaros Presentation

Join a park naturalist in the visitor center lobby to delve into the life of a saguaro cactus. *Wheelchair accessible.*

October 24 7:00 p.m. Star Party Illustrated Program & Activity

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. **Reservations required. Call 733-5153** *Wheelchair accessible.*

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org